

CONGRATULATIONS TO KIMBERLY WOODARD AND JOI SHEFFIELD ON WORK DONE FOR THE ELIAS MOTSOALEDI PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SOWETO, SOUTH AFRICA.

### HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate Miss Joi E. Sheffield and Miss Kimberly A. Woodard as they embark on a journey to improve the lives of young boys and girls in South Africa through education.

Miss Sheffield and Miss Woodard are launching their first event, in partnership with The Silver Spring (Maryland) Chapter of the The Links, Incorporated, Shari Sheffield, The Perfect Glass LLC and TV One, by hosting a charity event this evening at the Verizon Center's concert featuring legendary recording artist Stevie Wonder. Proceeds from their event will benefit The Elias Motsoaledi Pre-Primary School in Soweto, South Africa in the Gauteng Province.

The Elias Montsoaledi Pre-Primary School is a temporary school located in the informal settlement of Montsoaledi. The school was built in 2002 with donations from The Links, Incorporated. The Elias Montsoaledi Pre-Primary School is a private school that does not qualify for funding from the South African government and is reliant on private funding and donations for school tuition and fees, teacher's salary, books and supplies, and meals.

In May 2007, Miss Sheffield and Miss Woodard traveled to South Africa as part of a Links, Incorporated-sponsored trip, where they visited The Elias Montsoaledi Pre-Primary School, among many others. Following that experience they walked away committed to working to improve the lives of the children they met in Soweto, South Africa.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Miss Sheffield and Miss Woodard on the work they are doing in support of those seeking educational excellence in South Africa, and I wish them well in their endeavors.

### HONORING THE MONTEREY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Monterey Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

In 2000, the Monterey Volunteer Fire Department bought a new pumper fire engine for their 1985 Ford fire engine. The Monterey Fire Department is privileged and honored to serve their community and their country.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Monterey, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Monterey Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Richard Milligan, Assistant Chief Kevin Peters, Johnny Bowman, Mike Looper, Jeff Hicks, Matt Parrott, Jody Key, John Webb, Jonathan Sisco and Terry Coggsdale.

### IN MEMORY OF EARL CLEMONS, JR.

### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Earl Clemons, Jr., formerly of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, who passed away October 20, 2007, at the age of 83.

Earl Clemons, Jr., dedicated his life to his family, his community and his country. He was born in the small Delta town of Tamo, in Jefferson County, and his deep affection for the Delta region can be measured by the enormous contributions he made to the agriculture community of Arkansas, something he dedicated his passions and energies to throughout his long life. It can always be said he lived life to the fullest and impressed upon each person he met the value of giving back, something that was evident in his numerous leadership roles he held in life.

Upon graduation from Grady High School, Earl Clemons, Jr., served his country in the 103rd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. After his service, he returned home and earned a degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He took his enthusiasm for agriculture back to his hometown of Tamo where he refined his craft on the family farm. Over the years, he gave everything he had to agriculture and to the Delta region. His famous "Farm Tour" was a detailed history of agriculture in the Delta that included visits to a local cotton gin, cotton oil mill and river port where grain was loaded.

In addition to his work in the field of agriculture, Earl Clemons, Jr., was also a man of devout faith. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pine Bluff. His belief in the importance of community led him to serve in many civic organizations such as the Grider Field Airport Commission and the local Board of Directors of Simmons First National Bank in Pine Bluff.

I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Bennye Jane Haskins Clemmons; his two sons, Earl "Skip" Clemons III of Little Rock and Neil Clemons of Chicago, Illinois; his two daughters Jane Clemons of San Francisco, California and Rose Clemmons Gladner of Little Rock; and to his six grandchildren and numerous friends. Earl Clemons, Jr., will be greatly missed in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, the agriculture community and throughout the state of Arkansas, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

### HONORING THE LANCASTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department is a small, rural fire department in a close-knit community. The department hosts the Fire Hall Jam every August.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Lancaster, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Tim Manning, Asst. Chief Larry Moss, Keith Williams, Honorary Lifetime Member Bradley Helm, Tim Bates, Larry Watts, Danny Bass, Ellic Gullett, James Gentry, Kevin Moss, and Keith Boyd.

### CELEBRATING AMERICA'S HERITAGE ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1483, Celebrating America's Heritage Act. I thank Congressman REGULA, Chairman RAHALL, and their staff for their hard work on bringing this deserving and important legislation to the floor for full consideration. This bi-partisan legislation will authorize additional funding to existing National Heritage Areas, ensure adequate management of these areas, and establish six new Heritage Areas which enjoy broad community support.

The National Heritage Area program is unique in that it involves whole communities in public/private partnerships to recognize, and appreciate our Nation's shared history for generations to come. I'm so pleased that both sides of the aisle support the goals of the National Heritage Area program. President Herbert Hoover said, "Honor is not the exclusive property of any political party." This bill proves that honoring our past is also not the exclusive property of any political party.

President Hoover, a native Iowan, was born in West Branch, Iowa on August 10, 1874. Thanks in part to the Silos and Smokestacks, or America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership program, President Hoover's birthplace, and other similar historic sites are preserved and included in the 37 county, 20,000 square mile